

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN "COMMENTARY" ON AMERICAN
INTENTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. BERLINER ZEITUNG OF JANUARY 25 CARRIED AN ARTICLE
ON PAGE SIX WHICH IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF
"COMMENTARY" ON EVENTS WHICH THE EAST GERMAN
GOVERNMENT USES TO SUPPORT ITS PRECONCEPTIONS OF THE
WORLD SCENE.

2. THE STORY BEGINS WITH A REITERATION OF THE RECENT
STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER CONCERNING POSSIBLE
MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IF THE WEST
IS THREATENED BY ECONOMIC STRANGULATION. IT COUPLES
THIS STATEMENT WITH REPORTS THAT THE U.S. HAS AGREED
WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A "FORWARD
BASE" ON THE ISLAND OF MASIRAH (WITH THE AGREEMENT OF
THE SULTAN OF OMAN WHO IS DESCRIBED AS DEPENDENT ON
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THE BRITISH AND ONLY TOO EAGER TO STIR UP TROUBLE).

THE ARTICLE SAYS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO THREATEN THE
PASSAGE OF OIL TANKERS THROUGH NEARBY STRAITS BY
AIR FROM MASIRAH AND NOTES THAT THE COUNTRIES MOST
LIKELY TO BE SO THREATENED ARE IRAQ AND KUWAIT.
THE STORY CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT THE U.S. FACILITY
ON THE MID-INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA AND
THE PROPOSED BASE ON MASIRAH ARE PART OF A LARGER
U.S. STRATEGIC PLAN TO THREATEN THE ARAB WORLD.

3. DESPITE IT CLAIMS TO BE "COMMENTARY," THIS
STORY IS SHORT ON FACTS, COMPLETELY LACKING IN BALANCE
AND WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR PRETENTION TO UNDERSTANDING
THE MUCH LARGE MIDDLE EAST PICTURE. IT SEEMS
CONCOCTED TO QUESTION U.S.
MOTIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.COOPER

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